

**MEDICINE HAT
INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM**
Managed by Grasslands Naturalists



June 25, 2010

2010 SPRING BIRD AND FLOWER COUNT

Fellow Birders and Flower Watchers:

2010 was another great year as there were 2 new species seen on the count – Baird’s sandpiper and red-necked phalarope. Furthermore, there were 17 species with recorded high counts up from 11 in 2009; 4 (turkey vulture, prairie falcon, pileated woodpecker, and red-eyed vireo) tied high counts from previous years while the reminder set new highs (see Table 1 below). The number of participants increased from 2009 with a corresponding increase in distances driven and covered on foot (see Data Summary Table below). Many thanks to all those who volunteered their time this year!

New Species Observed in 2010: Baird’s Sandpiper – 1, Red-necked Phalarope – 2

Table 1. 2010 Spring Bird Count All Time High and Low Observations.

2010 Spring Bird Count – Highs and Lows			
Species	High	Previous High	Year
Canada Goose	930	884	2000
Green-winged Teal	11	8	1997
Mallard	457	369	2000
Cinnamon Teal	9	8	1991
American Wigeon	54	36	1996
Turkey Vulture	23	23	2008
Prairie Falcon	6	6	2002
Marbled Godwit	68	58	1992
Franklin’s Gull	1,006	283	1993
Eurasian-collared Dove	11	7	2009
Pileated Woodpecker	2	2	2008
Violet-green Swallow	61	36	2009
Common Raven	9	2	1997
Black-capped Chickadee	71	63	2002
Rock Wren	31	18	2002, 1991
American Robin	918	894	2009

Red-eyed Vireo	8	8	1988
Species	Low	Previous Low	Year
No Lows in 2010	-	-	-

All of the species with observed highs in 2010 were native species except Eurasian-collared dove. Most of the Franklin's gulls were observed in 2 flocks (580 and 375, respectively) by separate observers. Robins exhibited a high for the third straight year and highs for 2 species (Eurasian-collared dove and violet-green swallow) occurred previously in 2009. This is only the second time common ravens have been observed during a spring count and they were observed as two unique groups by separate observers (3 and 6, respectively). Water birds (waterfowl, shorebirds, gulls) accounted for the 2 new species observed and 7 of 17 high counts recorded.

Less frequently seen species observed in 2010 included pied-billed grebe (1), sharp-shinned hawk (1), black-necked stilt (1), solitary sandpiper (1), common nighthawk (1), eastern phoebe (1), white-throated sparrow (1), and bobolink (1).

The top five for 2010 were: European starling (1,171), Franklin's gull (1,006), Canada goose (930), American robin (918), and ring-billed gull (862).

One species, black-billed cuckoo (1), was seen exclusively during count week.

As for flowers in bloom, there were 53 species observed, which is above average for the spring count. Likely, the unusually wet spring translated to more wildflowers and increased numbers of water birds observed.

Yours truly,

Marty Drut

Marty Drut
Count Compiler

DATA SUMMARY - 2010					
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Individuals	7,728	6,682	11,170	10,297	13,123
Total Bird Species	117	118	142	127	139
Total Flower Species	36	36	33	32	53
Participants	26	19	30	25	35
Total Km Walked	94.5	45.75	95	76	86
Total Km Driven	183	181	293	236	294.5
Hours of Observation	59.25	47.25	95.25	86.25	86
on foot:	-	32.25	60.25	50.5	52.5
by car:	-	15	35.0	35.75	33.5
feeder:			2	2	4

Wildflowers in bloom: 53 species

Prairie Onion (*Allium textile*)
Star-flowered Solomon's Seal
(*Smilacina stellata*)
Willow Species (*Salix sp.*)
Pale Comandra (Bastard Toadflax)
(*Comandra umbellata*)
Field Chickweed (*Cerastium arvense*)
Mouse-eared Chickweed
(*Cerastium vulgatum*)
Western Wallflower (Prairie Rocket)
(*Erysimum asperum*)
Dame's Rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*)
Golden Currant (*Ribes aureum*)
Saskatoon (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)
Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)
Common Wild Rose (*Rosa woodsii*)
Two-grooved Milk Vetch
(*Astragalus bisulcatus*)
Purple Milk Vetch (*Astragalus dasyglottis*)
Drummond's Milk Vetch
(*Astragalus drummondii*)
Missouri Milk Vetch
(*Astragalus missouriensis*)
Narrow-leaved Milk Vetch
(*Astragalus pectinatus*)
Common Caragana (*Caragana arborescens*)
Silvery Perennial Lupine (*Lupinus sericeus*)
Annual Lupine (*Lupinus pusillus*)
Yellow Sweet Clover (*Melilotus officinalis*)
Early Yellow Locoweed (*Oxytropis sericea*)
Golden Bean (*Thermopsis rhombifolia*)
Wild Vetch (*Vicia Americana*)
Wild Blue Flax (*Linum lewisii*)
Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*)
Scarlet Mallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*)
Yellow (Nuttall's) Prairie Violet
(*Viola nuttallii*)
Prickly-pear Cactus (*Opuntia polyacantha*)
Hairy-fruited Wild Parsley
(*Lomatium foeniculaceum*)
Moss Phlox (*Phlox hoodii*)
Western Blue-bur (*Lappula occidentalis*)
Narrow-leaved Puccoon
(*Lithospermum incisum*)
White Beard-tongue (*Penstemon albidus*)
Smooth Blue Beard-tongue
(*Penstemon nitidus*)
Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*)
Common Lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)
Common Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

Low Everlasting (Pussy-toes)
(*Antennaria aprica*)
Tufted (Low) Fleabane
(*Erigeron caespitosus*)
Colorado Rubberplant
(*Hymenoxys richardsonii*)
Common Dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*)
Yellow Goat's-beard (*Tragopogon dubius*)

Others observed
(not in taxonomic order):

Skunk-bush (*Rhus trilobata*)
Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*)
Pincushion cactus
(*Coryphantha vivipara*)
Silverberry (Wolf willow)
(*Elaeagnus commutata*)
Fireweed (*Epilobium augustifolium*)
Tansy Mustard (*Descurainia sophia*)
Penny Cress (*Thlaspi arvense*)
Wild Mustard (*Brassica kaber*)
Shepherd's Purse
(*Capsella bursa-pastoris*)
Butter and Eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*)



PARTICIPANTS

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George Lulkasiewich

Flower Counter:
Mavis Stegen



Species	May 28 2006	May 27 2007	May 25 2008	May 24 2009	May 30 2010
Pied-billed Grebe	-	-	-	-	1
Horned Grebe	4	-	2	-	5
Eared Grebe	-	5	19	15	6
Western Grebe	-	-	1	3	2
White Pelican	39	51	159 <i>high</i>	144	110
Double-crested Cormorant	2	4	40 <i>high</i>	16	12
American Bittern	-	-	-	-	-
Great Blue Heron	107	114	50	143	108
Black-crowned Night Heron	-	1	-	-	-
White-faced Ibis	-	-	1	-	-
Snow Goose	-	-	-	1	-
Canada Goose	469	606	549	596	930 <i>high</i>
Wood Duck	3	5	7	3	2
Green-winged Teal	7	-	2	-	11 <i>high</i>
Mallard	204	135	226	205	457 <i>high</i>
Northern Pintail	28	26	27	22	93
Blue-winged Teal	100	48	96	81	148
Cinnamon Teal	1	1	-	6	9 <i>high</i>
Northern Shoveler	39	57	109	78	154
Gadwall	23	45	88	176 <i>high</i>	97
Eurasian Wigeon	-	-	-	6 <i>high</i>	1
American Wigeon	12	29	26	16	54 <i>high</i>
Canvasback	10	31	25	20	26
Redhead	4	11	38 <i>high</i>	18	11
Ring-necked Duck	-	-	1	-	-
Lesser Scaup	8	6	14	19	68
Greater Scaup	-	5	8 <i>high</i>	2	5
Common Goldeneye	10	11	25	16	20
Bufflehead	-	-	1	-	5
Hooded Merganser	-	1	-	-	-
Red-breasted Merganser	2	-	2	-	-
Common Merganser	16	50	22	9	24
Ruddy Duck	11	2	1	11	1
Turkey Vulture	5	8	23 <i>high</i>	22	23 <i>high</i>
Osprey	-	1	5 <i>high</i>	3	-
Northern Harrier	2	1	18	12	3
Bald Eagle	3	3	2	7 <i>high</i>	5
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-	-	-	-	1
Cooper's Hawk	1	2	1	1	2
Broad-winged Hawk	1	CW	1	1	1
Swainson's Hawk	10	13	24	20	27
Red-tailed Hawk	9	10	17	19 <i>high</i>	8
Ferruginous Hawk	-	-	1	-	-
Rough-legged Hawk	-	-	2 <i>high</i>	1	-

Species	May 28 2006	May 27 2007	May 25 2008	May 24 2009	May 30 2010
American Kestrel	19	12	16	14	13
Merlin	4	3	10	7	10
Prairie Falcon	1	5	4	4	6 <i>high</i>
Peregrine Falcon	-	-	1 NEW!	-	-
Gray Partridge	24	14	13	12	8
Ring-necked Pheasant	15	29	92 <i>high</i>	87	62
Sharp-tailed Grouse	-	-	3	-	-
Sora	1	5	13	6	5
American Coot	8	16	66 <i>high</i>	54	20
Killdeer	54	41	46	26 <i>low</i>	27
Black-necked Stilt	-	1	-	-	1
American Avocet	-	7	6	2	24
Greater Yellowlegs	-	-	-	1	-
Lesser Yellowlegs	-	1	-	3	-
Solitary Sandpiper	-	-	1	-	1
Willet	4	7	22	11	11
Spotted Sandpiper	12	14	15	31	35
Upland Sandpiper	-	-	-	3	-
Whimbrel	-	-	5 <i>high</i>	-	-
Long-billed Curlew	6	18	9	8	16
Marbled Godwit	17	13	32	18	68 <i>high</i>
Baird's Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	1 NEW!
Common Snipe	4	20	27	15	10
Wilson's Phalarope	16	23	40	28	35
Red-necked Phalarope	-	-	-	-	2 NEW!
Franklin's Gull	148	23	127	213	1,006 <i>high</i>
Ring-billed Gull	392	122	598	350	862
California Gull	68	58	29	64	158
"White-headed Gulls"	100	20	14	-	16
Common Tern	-	7	4	16	3
Caspian Tern	-	1	6	-	-
Forster's Tern	-	-	1	-	-
Black Tern	-	4	5	-	2
Rock Pigeon	305	272	446	383	488
Mourning Dove	128	195	313	299	156
Eurasian-collared Dove	4	4	5	7	11 <i>high</i>
Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	CW
Great Horned Owl	7	7	13	10	4
Common Nighthawk	-	-	-	-	1
Belted Kingfisher	4	3	7	6	4
Pileated Woodpecker	CW	1	2 <i>high</i>	-	2 <i>high</i>
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	1	-	1	-	-
Red-naped Sapsucker	-	CW	-	-	-
Sapsucker Species	-	-	-	-	1

Species	May 28 2006	May 27 2007	May 25 2008	May 24 2009	May 30 2010
Downy Woodpecker	6	8	19	24 <i>high</i>	16
Hairy Woodpecker	-	1	1	1	4
Northern Flicker	43	30	76	48	82
Western Wood Pewee	3	9	1	7	3
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1	CW	-	-	-
“Trail’s Flycatcher” = (Alder & Willow Flycatcher)	-	CW	2	-	-
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	CW	-	2
Willow Flycatcher	-	-	CW	1	-
Least Flycatcher	44	36	41	57	89
Empidonax Species	-	-	-	-	18
Eastern Phoebe	-	-	-	1	1
Say’s Phoebe	2	1	2	2	2
Western Kingbird	41	97	38	98	75
Eastern Kingbird	66	47	31	92	125
Horned Lark	62	11	45	16	44
Tree Swallow	102	97	204	305 <i>high</i>	173
Violet-green Swallow	2	26	4	36	61 <i>high</i>
N. Roughed-winged Swallow	1	17	12	9	6
Bank Swallow	913	8	122	46	57
Cliff Swallow	111	35	91	68	215
Barn Swallow	25	41	39	35	39
Purple Martin	-	CW	-	-	-
Blue Jay	7	8	9	18 <i>high</i>	11
Black-billed Magpie	182	143	213	196	236
American Crow	64	89	123	110	69
Common Raven	-	-	-	-	9 <i>high</i>
Black-capped Chickadee	25	25	60	56	71 <i>high</i>
Red-breasted Nuthatch	3	10	13	22	22
White-breasted Nuthatch	1	-	-	3	3
Rock Wren	1	6	-	2	31 <i>high</i>
House Wren	122	148	215	256	136
Marsh Wren	-	-	7 <i>high</i>	1	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	-	1	-	-
Mountain Bluebird	1	1	-	-	-
Veery	-	-	2	-	2
Swainson’s Thrush	6	3	24	23	19
Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	-	-	-	-
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	11
American Robin	592	443	819	894	918 <i>high</i>
Gray Catbird	34	24	69	54	81
Northern Mockingbird	1	-	1	-	-
Brown Thrasher	44	20	67	62	29

Species	May 28 2006	May 27 2007	May 25 2008	May 24 2009	May 30 2010
Sprague's Pipit	15	7	10	10	10
Cedar Waxwing	69	2	56	-	26
Bohemian Waxwing	5 high	-	-	-	-
Loggerhead Shrike	-	1	1	-	1
Northern Shrike	-	-	2 NEW!	2	-
European Starling	463	845	779	878	1,171
Blue-headed Vireo (Solitary)	-	-	CW	-	-
Warbling Vireo	12	21	9	21	9
Red-eyed Vireo	4	2	5	-	8 high
Orange-crowned Warbler	5	-	10	2	6
Tennessee Warbler	3	-	11	3	7
Yellow Warbler	234	204	290	377	270
Yellow-rumped Warbler	-	-	7	6	1
Blackpoll Warbler	1	-	4	17	1
Ovenbird	-	-	CW	-	-
Northern Waterthrush	-	-	1	-	-
Black-and-white Warbler	-	-	-	1	-
American Redstart	-	1	1	1	5
Common Yellowthroat	19	21	12	19	13
Wilson's Warbler	-	-	CW	2	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	3	CW	1	2
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	1	-	1	1	3
Lazuli Bunting	4	CW	6	1	5
Spotted Towhee	26	24	47	61	32
American Tree Sparrow	-	-	1	-	-
Chipping Sparrow	70	30	309 high	82	151
Clay-coloured Sparrow	57	57	145	168 high	83
Brewer's Sparrow	3	-	-	-	3
Vesper Sparrow	59	49	137 high	117	58
Lark Sparrow	63	54	52	80	35
Lark Bunting	29	2	16	1	-
Savannah Sparrow	31	33	55	40	24
Baird's Sparrow	5	5	3	3	2
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	-	-	5 NEW!	-	-
Grasshopper Sparrow	-	2	-	3	-
Song Sparrow	5	5	7	15	9
White-throated Sparrow	-	-	-	-	1
White-crowned Sparrow	2	-	6	-	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	-	-	2	1	-
Harris's Sparrow	-	-	3	-	-
Dark-eyed Junco	-	-	2	2	-
Chestnut-collared Longspur	2	4	-	-	3
Bobolink	-	-	-	-	1

Species	May 28 2006	May 27 2007	May 25 2008	May 24 2009	May 30 2010
Red-winged Blackbird	331	295	878	634	648
Western Meadowlark	312	235	425	368	219
Yellow-headed Blackbird	84	115	357 <i>high</i>	123	160
Brewer's Blackbird	253	146	480	268	409
Common Grackle	187	377	330	323	337
Brown-headed Cowbird	85	74	190	178	146
Baltimore Oriole	26	22	45	25	61
White-winged Crossbill	-	5	-	-	-
Pine Siskin	-	7	-	-	10
American Goldfinch	43	64	31	46	83
House Finch	28	80	52	22	91
Purple Finch	-	-	1	-	-
House Sparrow	204	267	410	482	856
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	7,728	6,682	11,170	10,297	13,123
TOTAL SPECIES	117	118	142	127	139